

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*



©2006 Ivey Hayes *Catch of the Day*. All rights reserved.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 10, 2019 • 10am

**First Congregational Church of Greenwich** declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership, and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

---

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.*

---

A note about the cover: Prolific artist Ivey Hayes inspired many with his use of vibrant colors and exaggerated depictions of the human form. Hayes believed his artistic skills and talents were true gifts from God. He never failed to recognize his Creator. In fact, Ivey Hayes once said, "*You know why I paint? It's the spirit of God working through my fingertips.*" He was gifted with the ability to create awe-inspiring images despite suffering from a debilitating condition, rheumatoid arthritis.

# - ORDER OF SERVICE -

## PRELUDE

Steven Russell, *Guest Director/Organist*  
*Prelude on "There is a Balm"* Adolphus Hailstork

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz  
*(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 138  
*(Prepares us for the purpose of service and sets the tone, orienting us toward a worship mindset.)*

One: We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

**All: Before God, we sing our praises.**

One: God is steadfast and faithful and answers our call.

**All: God increases the strength of our souls.**

One: Though we walk in the midst of trouble,

**All: God preserves us and stretches out a hand to help.**

One: We raise our own hands in praise and our voices in worship,

**All: for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

## CHORAL INTROIT

## HYMN\*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 593  
*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

## INVOCATION

Reverend Carla Dietz  
*(Opening Prayer: We call on God for help & presence. We call on the living God who has made a covenant with us through Jesus the Christ.)*

**When our hearts are doubting, your steadfast love never wavers. When our minds are dull, you open them with the unexpected. When our judgments are sharp, you soften us with your grace.**

**When our bodies are weary, you soothe us with nature's embrace. When our souls are anxious, you surprise us with your awe. God, awaken in us a sense of wonder that we may be made new in you. Amen.**

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

---

*All children will now proceed to the Daniels Center to make Valentines for Edgehill residents and "Get Well" cards for Rosemary Lamie.*

---

## **PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

Reverend Carla Dietz

*(When we admit that we have not always been our best. It's a chance to unburden our hearts.)*

**God of unwavering love, you ask us to listen, but we try only to comprehend and control. You ask us to look, but we seek only to possess and underestimate what we see. Teach us how to move beyond looking with only our eyes, listening with only our ears, and learning with only our minds. Give us the ability to turn our hearts from the expected to the unexpected, and to be healed not by what we can manage on our own but by what we can experience through your promise. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

Reverend Carla Dietz

*(Assurance you are forgiven)*

## **FIRST LESSON**

Pat Larrabee

### ***Isaiah 6: 1-8***

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne—high, exalted!—and the train of his robes filled the Temple. Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew. And they called back and forth one to the other,

Holy, Holy, Holy is God-of-the-Angel-Armies.  
His bright glory fills the whole earth.

The foundations trembled at the sound of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke. I said,

"Doom! It's Doomsday!  
I'm as good as dead!  
Every word I've ever spoken is tainted—  
blasphemous even!"

And the people I live with talk the same way,  
using words that corrupt and desecrate.  
And here I've looked God in the face!  
The King! GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!"

Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me. He held a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with the coal and said,

"Look. This coal has touched your lips.  
Gone your guilt,  
your sins wiped out."

And then I heard the voice of the Master:  
"Whom shall I send?  
Who will go for us?"  
I spoke up,  
"I'll go.  
Send me!"

## **ANTHEM**

*'Twas in the Year King Uzziah Died*

The Chancel Choir  
George Bayley (b. 1927)

## **GOSPEL**

***Luke 5:1-11***

Associate Pastor Avery C. Manchester

Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch."

Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish,

straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself." When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him.

**MESSAGE**  
*Your Call?*

Associate Pastor Avery C. Manchester

**HYMN\***

New Century (Black) Hymnal 553

*There Is A Balm in Gilead*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Associate Pastor Avery C. Manchester  
*(Praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform, renew us and help us work out the complications of our lives.)*

"Oh God, the hour is dark. The suffering is great. But we will not give up. We will not surrender.

We will not surrender because we have endured the lash of spite and the whip of hate on our backs.

We will not surrender because we know that faith is greater than fear, good triumphant over evil, love more noble than hate.

We will not surrender because our mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, too, believed in you, believed in us, believed that no obstacle put in their way could stop them.

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

They believed that the grace you gave them for their journeys would outlast any challenge to their hearts and minds.

We will not surrender because your enduring and indestructible Word feeds the souls of our people.

We will not surrender because blackness is a gift that has blessed the world beyond compare. Our minds and hearts, and our tongues and bodies, too, have made Earth a better place to live. We will not surrender because we have survived.

Oh God, we are not naïve. We know, just as white America knows, that our legion, multiple, complicated, adaptable, triumphant blackness threatens whiteness.

Oh God, you placed a paradox in our midst like a rainbow at the end of a storm: if we are to understand America we must understand blackness.

Oh Lord, black folk are everything: we are every possibility of American, even human, identity made real. That means we are everywhere, just like our white brothers and sisters.

We are going nowhere. We are your children too. We will survive. We are America.”

- Excerpt from Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Eric Dyson

## CALL TO OFFERING

Lynn Robertson

## OFFERTORY SOLO

*Safe Within Your Arms*

Linnea Conley, mezzo-soprano

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

## DOXOLOGY\*

*(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring God's mission to the world.)*

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 515

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING\*

Lynn Robertson

## HYMN\*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 519

*Not My Brother, Nor My Sister*

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*Fanfare on McKee*

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

---

*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.*

---



## A Note about Welcoming Children

***To our parents:*** Relax! God put the wiggle in children... do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, there is a PrayGround in the back of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. Chairs and rocking chairs are reserved for parents to supervise their children if you do not need to be on the rug with them. There are also additional children's books on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*





## Radio Ministry

The 10:00 am service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website: [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.

# NEWS & NOTICES

---

## TODAY

---



### Church School

Regular Church School classes resume today. Next week, there is **No Church School** due to vacations. All children will remain in church except babies and toddlers. Child Care is always available in the Red Door. A look ahead:

- TODAY:** **Big Event!** Valentine making for special people
- Sunday, Feb. 17:** No Church School; Child Care for babies and toddlers only
- Sunday, Feb. 24:** 9 am Intergenerational Breakfast  
10 am Regular Church School & Communion Class
- Sunday, Mar. 3:** Regular Church School  
Church School Communion Sunday  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders cook chili
- Saturday, Mar. 9:** FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor
- Sunday, Mar. 10:** Regular Church School



### Choir Rehearsals Today

#### Cherub Choir:

Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45



### Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.



## Caring Ministries – Coffee hour today

Please visit the Caring Ministries table at coffee hour to see all our activities.

- Soup for the Soul
- Prayer shawl knitting
- First Church's prayer group
- Card ministry – adults and children
- Visiting committee (visiting and flower delivery)
- Wellness committee
- Caregiver support group

---

## UPCOMING

---



Our popular Sunday Afternoons Live series is in the acoustic splendor of the First Church Auditorium. Each Sunday at 4:00 p.m., a wonderful performance by outstanding local and national artists will surely delight all in attendance. Refreshments and light sweets are included in your \$25 admission. As always, school-age children are free!

**Opening Sunday, February 17:** Rimantas Vingras, *piano*

Lithuanian born, London-based pianist Rimantas Vingras presents a solo piano recital on the Victor Borge Steinway. Rimantas has given solo performances in Russia, the UK, Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland and the USA. As a soloist he has performed with the London Mozart players and the Chamber Orchestra of the Lithuanian Academy of Music. Rimantas has collaborated with cellist Dr. David Low, violinist Edita Orlynyte, soprano Audrey Luna and accordionist Martynas Levickis.



## Church School Task Force

We are hosting our Intergenerational Faith Formation Breakfast, a bi-annual pancake fest! Bring your appetites!

**Date: Sunday, February 24**

**Time: 9 am**

**Location: Auditorium**



**Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?**  
Feel free to join us at the **New Member Information Gathering!**

**Date: Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 11:20 am**

**Location: Senior Pastor's office**

**Duration: 1 ½ hours, lunch included**

Come hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Child care will be provided at both times. For more information, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x 826.

**Community Lenten Dinners**



During Lent, it is a common tradition for individuals and families to try and give something up for the season, or to replace an unwelcome habit with a more preferred one. The staff and leadership at First Church will be "giving up" all official church meetings during the six weeks of Lent and replacing them with weekly

Community Lenten Dinners everyone is invited to. Please join us by signing up for these dinners, hosted and organized by the committees and staff of the church.

**Beginning: Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6 pm**

**Location: Church auditorium**

**Duration: Every Wednesday, 6 pm during Lent.**

Please contact Patrick Collins at [patrickc@fccog.org](mailto:patrickc@fccog.org) or 203 637-1791 x 825 to sign-up!



**Available plots in the Columbarium**

There are now main cemetery graves available, as some were hidden in the manual records and newly discovered by Pat Larrabee. Many were donated or sold back by families who no longer need them. If you are interested in purchasing graves or locations in the columbarium, please contact Wendy Spezzano at [wendys@fccog.org](mailto:wendys@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x814.

---

## NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

---

### Shopping Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

### Donation Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday & Saturday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

### Manager Leanne's Wish List:

Spring Clothing for all, Ladies handbags, Men's ties, Children's Clothing

**Come on over to 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich!**



## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791    [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. Carla Dietz

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Minister of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove